

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Amended): A therapy device for providing air to a patient's upper body, said device comprising:

a tube having a first leg, a second leg, and a crosspiece, said tube having an orifice for an air supply hose, said tube having ~~a plurality of exhaust ports;~~ means for exhausting air, said first leg, said second leg, and said crosspiece defining a U-shaped opening sized to accommodate a head of the patient between said first leg and said second leg, and said first leg and said second leg having a length sufficient to extend from a shoulder of the patient to a crown of said head of the patient;

a base sheet attached to said crosspiece, ~~whereby~~ said base sheet holds holding said tube in a fixed position when inflating and deflating said tube; and

a cover sheet attached to said first leg and extending to said second leg, said tube positioned between said cover sheet and said base sheet.

Claim 2 (Cancelled):

Claim 3 (Cancelled):

Claim 4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Original): The device of Claim 1 wherein said tube further includes a first tube sheet and a second tube sheet, said tube formed by overlaying said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet and joining said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet at a common outside edge.

Claim 7 (Cancelled):

Claim 8 (Amend d): The device of Claim 6 wherein said ~~plurality of exhaust ports are~~ means for exhausting air is a plurality of slits formed in said tube, each of said plurality of slits positioned adjacent to said common outside edge. ~~substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said tube proximate to each of said plurality of slits.~~

Claim 9 (Amended): The device of Claim ~~6-1~~ wherein said ~~plurality of exhaust ports are~~ means for exhausting air is defined by an air permeable portion of said tube.

Claim 10 (Cancelled):

Claim 11 (Amended): The device of Claim 6 wherein said ~~plurality of exhaust ports are~~ means for exhausting air is located adjacent to said common outside edge.

Claim 12 (Original): The device of Claim 6 wherein said first tube sheet has an amount of excess material that is folded parallel to an axis of said first leg, said fold being joined with said second tube sheet at said common outside edge.

Claim 13 (Original): The device of Claim 1 wherein said tube further includes a first appendage,

said first appendage connected to and extending substantially perpendicular to said first leg at a first leg end distal to connection of said first leg to said crosspiece.

Claim 14 (Amended): A therapy device for providing air to a patient's upper body, said device comprising:

a tube having a first leg, a second leg, and a crosspiece, wherein said first leg, said second leg, and said crosspiece defining a U-shaped opening, said U-shaped opening sized to accommodate a head of the patient between said first leg and said second leg, said tube having an orifice for an air supply hose, said tube formed by overlaying a first tube sheet and a second tube sheet and joining said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet at a common outside edge;

a plurality of exhaust ports formed in said tube for exhausting a medium from said tube into said U-shaped opening;

a base sheet attached to said crosspiece, whereby said base sheet holds said tube in a fixed position when inflating and deflating said tube;

at least one securing tab extending from said common outside edge and attached to said base sheet; and

a cover sheet attached to said first leg, said cover sheet being transparent and extending to said second leg, said tube positioned between said cover sheet and said base sheet.

Claim 15 (Cancelled):

Claim 16 (Original): The device of Claim 14 wherein said first tube sheet has an amount of excess material that is folded parallel to an axis of said first leg, said fold being joined with said second tube sheet at said common outside edge.

Claim 17 (Cancelled):

Claim 18 (Cancelled):

Claim 19 (Amended): The device of Claim 14 wherein said plurality of exhaust ports include a plurality of slits formed in said tube, each of said plurality of slits positioned ~~substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said tube proximate to each of said plurality of slits and~~ adjacent to said common outside edge.

Claim 20 (Cancelled):

Claim 21 (Original): A therapy device for providing heated air to a patient's upper body, said device comprising:

a means for releasably containing a first quantity of a medium;

a means for connecting a source of said first quantity of said medium to said means for containing;

a means for exhausting a second quantity of said medium from said means for containing;

a means for securing said means for containing in a fixed position adjacent to an upper body member; and

a means for directing said second quantity of said medium over said upper body member.

Claim 22 (Amended): A method for fabricating a therapy device for providing heated air to a patient's upper body, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a first tube sheet and a second tube sheet with a complementary shape, said complementary shape being generally U-shaped and having a first leg, a second leg, and a crosspiece;

(b) attaching said first tube sheet to said second tube sheet at an outside common edge such that said first tube sheet and second tube sheet form a tube when inflated;

(c) forming exhaust ports in said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet;

(d) attaching said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet to a base sheet;

(e) attaching at least one securing tab from said first leg to said base sheet;
and

(f) attaching a cover sheet to said first tube sheet, said cover sheet being attached by fixing one end of said cover sheet to said first leg, said cover sheet extending to said second leg.

Claim 23 (Amended): The method of Claim 22 ~~a therapy device wherein~~ said step of forming exhaust ports includes cutting slits in said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet.

Claim 24 (Cancelled):

Claim 25 (Cancelled):

Claim 26 (Amended): A method for selectively warming a patient's upper body, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) arranging a therapy device to form a thermal warming zone around an upper body portion of a patient, said therapy device including an inflatable tube having an inlet connection for receiving a thermally controlled medium and a plurality of exhaust ports for directing said thermally controlled medium into said thermal warming zone, said tube formed by overlaying a first tube sheet and a second tube sheet and joining said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet at a common outside edge, said tube having a first leg, a second leg, and a crosspiece defining a U-shaped opening, said U-shaped opening sized to accommodate a head of the patient between said first leg and said second leg;

(b) positioning a portion of the patient over a base sheet attached to said inflatable tube such that said plurality of exhaust ports are positioned proximate a selected portion of the patient, whereby said therapy device is restricted from selected movement;

(c) inflating said therapy device with said thermally controlled medium;

(d) exhausting said thermally controlled medium from said therapy device;
and

(e) releasably covering said upper body portion to direct said exhausted medium to said upper body portion by positioning a cover over said patient, said cover attached to said inflatable tube along an edge of said cover.

Claim 27 (Cancelled):

Claim 28 (new): The device of Claim 1 wherein said means for exhausting air is located such that air is exhausted toward said patient except in a region defined by the location of two ears on said patient.

Claim 29 (n w): The device of Claim 13 wherein said first appendage is adapted to extend along a shoulder of a patient.

Claim 30 (new): The device of Claim 13 wherein said means for exhausting air extends along said first appendage, and said means for exhausting air directs air toward a patient adjacent to said first appendage.

Claim 31 (new): The device of Claim 14 wherein said plurality of exhaust ports are located such that air is prevented from being exhausted toward said patient in a region defined by the location of two ears on the patient.

Claim 32 (new): The device of Claim 14 wherein said plurality of exhaust ports include a plurality of slits formed in said tube.

Claim 33 (new): The device of Claim 14 wherein said plurality of exhaust ports are defined by an air permeable portion of said tube.

Claim 34 (new): The device of Claim 14 wherein said tube further includes a first appendage, said first appendage connected to and extending substantially perpendicular to said first leg at a first leg end distal to connection of said first leg to said crosspiece, said first appendage extending away from said second tube.

Claim 35 (new): The method of Claim 22 wherein said step of forming exhaust ports includes positioning an air permeable region in one of said first tube sheet and said second tube sheet.